

THE
C A S E
O F

Christopher Byron,

Late an Officer in his MAJESTY's Post-
Office, *Dublin.*

Submitted to the Consideration of his FRIENDS,
and the PUBLIC.



D. U B L I N;

Printed in the YEAR MDCC LXII.



ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author of the following Narrative is not prompted by any kind of Vanity to appear in Print; too conscious of his Incapacity, nothing but the fatal Necessity, arising from the frequent injurious and oppressive Proceedings of Men in ill placed Power and Authority in that Office wherein he was immediately concerned, has induced him to undertake this disagreeable, and, to him, painful Task.

It will be evident on perusal, that, the little Struggles and Applications he was from Time to Time compelled to make, against the iniquitous Incroachments and Innovations of those Persons, were then only intended to be known, by those who were concerned or affected.

It was unhappy for him in particular, as well as for the other Officers in general, that this Office, or the Persons who have abused the Power delegated to them therein, in so flagrant a Manner, were never as yet subjected to any public, and consequently impartial, Enquiry or Inspection, and therefore it is not at all surprizing, that the most monopolizing and oppressive Practices were introduced, at every convenient Opportunity: And tho' they could not at all Times be tamely or slavishly submitted to, yet any moderate or legal Opposition to those Abuses, was always sure to be productive of the Suspension or Dismission of the Opposers.

He has felt their unjustifiable Resentment the more severely, as he was ever zealous and active to the extent of his Abilities, in opposing, and complaining to his Superiors of those petty Tyrants in Office, whose Proceedings

ceedings were so invasive of the common Rights of that Community whereof he was a Member.

The Transactions are related in the order of Time they happened, and tho' they may not be thought very material to the rest of the World, yet they are nevertheless so, to the Persons concerned; and he is convinced that, on a fair Perusal, he will stand justified in the Opinion of his Friends and Acquaintance, as well as in that of the disinterested and impartial, to whom he is unknown, for this plain Reason only, that he has strictly adhered to Truth in every Particular; which must appear unquestionable, as the following Applications were made by him while he was in Office.

Another Motive which has induced him to make them public, is, to shew the World, that tho' we are ruled by the best of Kings, and that his Wisdom is apparent in his Choice of the most equitable Governors in every Department, yet, still their high Stations and more important Affairs prevent them from always examining minutely into the Conduct of Persons who act remotely under their Delegation, and, therefore, that the most iniquitous and oppressive Measures may be carried on, for some Time, at least, with Impunity.

All this he humbly apprehends will be fully demonstrated in the Course of these Papers, and, first, we shall lay before the Reader the following Extract of a Complaint and Petition, which he transmitted to London in the Year 1755.

TO THE
Rt. Hon. the EARL of LEICESTER,
AND
Sir EVERARD FAWKENER, Bart.
His MAJESTY's POST-MASTERS GENERAL.

THE
CASE and PETITION
OF
CHRISTOPHER BYRON,

In his own Name, and in Behalf of himself, and the rest of his Brethren, Junior Officers and Supernumeraries, in the General Post-Office, *Dublin*.

Most Humbly Sheweth,

“ **T**HAT he was stationed in that Office as youngest Supernumerary, at a Salary of 12*l. per Ann.* only, and without any additional Perquisite to support him in that Station.”

“ That after four Years Continuance in it, at the same Salary, finding it insufficient to support him, even with the utmost Oeconomy, he, and several of the other Officers, resolved on an Application to Sir *Marmaduke Wyvill*, then Deputy Postmaster of *Dublin*; but, apprehending that the most proper and regular Way of delivering it, would be through Mr. *Martin*'s Hands, who then acted as Accomptant and Comptroller of the Office, they accordingly submitted it to his Perusal and Recommendation.”

“ That, at this Time, there were three Supernumeraries in the Office, at 12*l.* a Year each, and
Mr.

Mr. *Byron*, had then, regularly succeeded to be the Eldest, but still at the same Salary ; however, in Consequence of this Application, Mr. *Martin* told him, sometime afterwards, that Sir *Marmaduke* had thought proper to take 40 Shillings a Year from the Salary of the youngest Supernumerary, and add it to his ; observing, that this would make a Distinction in the three Supernumeraries, *viz.* one at 14*l.* another at 12*l.* and the youngest at 10*l.* yearly."

" That though this Application had been made, not for the Sake of Distinction, but for an Augmentation of their Salaries, and to enable them to discharge their Duties more extensively and usefully, yet from this Time they heard no more of it, and were obliged, for the present, to acquiesce" §

" That we suspect, and have much Reason to be convinced, our malencholy Sufferings have been owing to the Conduct of Mr. *M——n*, who engrossed all access to Sir *Marmaduke*, and neglected no Means or Opportunity to extend and enlarge his own Perquisites and Power, even at the Expence and Loss of the oldest Officers ; this he could do the more readily, as they were for the most Part inactive, and discouraged from speaking or applying, and therefore had only the Liberty of murmuring and complaining in secret."

" That, as he had been formerly Deputy, or Clerk to Mr. *Evelyn*, the Secretary, who did not attend, he, by some private Agreement, rented, or procured the Privilege of sending or supplying News-Papers, to all the Two-penny, and every first four-penny Stage from *Dublin*, and that on his

(irregular)

§ In Truth we were afraid to urge it further while Sir *Marmaduke Wywill* lived, as Mr. *Martin*, (then generally known by the Title of Sir *Marmaduke Martin*, in Allusion to the Power he assumed) did not seem pleased with our Application.

(irregular) § Advancement, to the Accomptant or Comptroller's Place, he still retained this extensive Perquisite, though, till then, it had never been known to belong to any but the Secretary or Postmaster's Clerk, to whose Employment it was certainly annexed."

" That it had been a long received Opinion in the Office, that it was the Privilege of the Sorters only, to supply the Coffee-houses, Printers, and Others in *Dublin*, with *English* News-papers ; and this Perquisite was annexed to their Employments, in Proportion to their Stations ; but, as he had discovered that several of the public Offices, particularly the Commissioners of his Majesty's Revenue, Linen-Board, Barrack-Office, &c. &c and several Noblemen and Gentlemen Residents in *Dublin*, were known good Customers, and their Payments ready, this he thought too great an Advantage to be neglected, and assumed the Liberty and Privilege of serving them himself ; and that even lately (*at the Time this Complaint was writing*) he had taken the serving of the Lord Mayor of the City of *Dublin*, off of the List, and from the Sorters : A Benefit which they and their Predecessors had formerly enjoyed! So that the Sorters were only admitted to supply those whose pay was precarious, and whom he did not think it worth his Concern to be troubled with."

" That he also took upon him to serve Gentlemen in all Parts of the Kingdom with *English* and *Irish* News-papers, where ever he could obtain a Correspondent, and without any Satisfaction to the Officer, whose particular Province he thus injuriously invaded."

Likewise,

§ He did not arrive to this Employment by Succession, nor was he a practised Officer (which should most certainly be the Case of a Comptroller, and therefore was unfit to direct, what he had not Ability to execute ; which, to this Day, he has been so neglectful or unmindful of, that he never acquired the Ability to charge the common Post or Postage on Letters.

" Likewise, that he entirely ingrossed the Advantage of sending all *Irish* News-papers to *England* and *Scotland*, tho' this had been always allowed and practised by the Clerks of the Road, before his Time."

" That the several News-printers in this City, were also permitted to send their Papers Postage free, at all Times, to every Part of *Ireland*, which was a considerable Advantage to him, as they send a great Quantity, and allow him half a Guinea, yearly, for each they send in his Road."

" That it was also supposed he had further advanced his Perquisites, by agreeing with some of the public Offices in *Dublin*, for franking such Letters or Pacquets as they had occasion to send off yearly, and that all these Letters or Pacquets were addressed to different Parts of the Kingdom, and not confined to his particular Road: Tho', on what Account or Consideration he sent or received (under his Cover) those Pacquets, &c. free, could not be then ascertained."

" That; whether all these be his Privilege or Province or not, or whether it was in Virtue of his being or acting as Comptroller, Accomptant, Chief Clerk, or Clerk of the *Leinster* Road, that he had assumed it, was what the Officers here were Strangers to; as they were also to the many others he daily introduced, and changed according to Occasion or Circumstance, contrary to the old established Rules and Customs of the Office, and without shewing any Order for that Purpose, but his own arbitrary Will, and over-bearing any Enquiry made, or attempted to be made, into such Assumptions."

" That, it is well known, Precedents in public Offices are often interpreted into Laws, and carry equal Authority; so that whatever Innovations are introduced, are not admitted, sometimes, to be called

called in Question ; and, at any Rate, cannot be removed without great Difficulty, even tho' they should appear ever so opposite to the original Institution, or injurious to the Rights of that Community, for whose Benefit, in Proportion to their several Stations in it, they were at first intended."

" That, on the Death of the late Accomptant, Mr. *Power*, Mr. *Martin* being appointed to succeed him, had not only an additional Salary of 50*l.* § a Year granted him, more than Mr. *Power* had enjoyed, and other Advantages, but he also retained the Benefit of the Road before-mentioned, which ought, in Right, to have descended to his Successor in the Office of Clerk or Secretary to the Post-Master-General; but that Successor, instead of receiving a Perquisite of about 400*l.* a Year, was obliged to accept of one of 50*l.* which Sum of 50*l.* had been paid to the late Accomptant, Mr. *Power*, in Compliment, or Lieu, of all Privilege or Advantage of sending News-papers to any Part of the Kingdom, and was levied as follows. — The two Clerks of the Road paid 10*l.* each, the Alphabet-keeper the like, the Post-master's Clerk the like, and the Sorters, considered as one Person, for the sole Privilege of serving the People in *Dublin* with *English* News-papers, the like Sum of 10*l.* yearly; yet, tho' Mr. *Martin* retained this advantageous Perquisite belonging to the Post-Master-General's Clerk, he still neglected or refused to pay his small Pittance or Proportion of that 50*l.* to Mr. *Jones*, or Mr. *Magran*, who successively succeeded him in that Employ."

" That, as the same Occasions of Complaint still subsisted after Sir *Marmaduke*'s Death, and Mr.

B

Martin

§ The 50*l.* a Year was granted for being Chief Clerk, a new Employment, or Title, struck out, and this, with all the other extraordinary Privileges and Indulgences he acquired through the good-natured Indolence, and known Aversion to Business of Sir *Marmaduke Wyvill*.

Martin having gone to *London* on that Occasion, we thought that a favourable Opportunity to lay our Distress before the Honourable Board, fully persuaded that should they come to the Knowledge of it, we would be relieved; and, accordingly, we drew up another Petition, which we thought it our Duty to forward to Mr. *Martin*, with our Requests that he would please to represent our unhappy Situation in its true Light, and use his Interest for our Redress"

" To this he returned a very Slight, careless Answer, directed to Mr. *Magran*, the then Secretary here, importing, that he had received our Petition, but that he thought it an improper Thing; that it came too late, &c. tho' he continued several Weeks in *London*, after he had received it."

" But, as the Place of Deputy Post-master here, was, at that Time, vacant, and that Mr. *Martin* still remained in *London*, we were willing to flatter ourselves with the Hopes of a more agreeable Change, and that new Rules and Regulations much more to our Ease and Advantage would be introduced; yet, on his Return, nothing in the Way of advancing our Salaries appeared to have been done, and during his short Interregnum we had all in our Turns, underwent a tedious Variety of Hardships and Abuses, 'till Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, our new Post-master arrived; and as we found our Distresses to become daily more urgent, we took the first convenient Opportunity to lay them before him in the following Address.

To the Right Honourable Sir THOMAS PRENDERGAST, Bart. Post-master-General of Ireland.

The PETITION of the JUNIOR
OFFICERS and SUPERNUMERARIES of
the General Post-Office, *Dublin*.

Most Humbly Sheweth,

“ THAT the Employments of your Petitioners are not only of the greatest Trust, but requires above all others, the most strict, assiduous, and constant Attendance, whereby your Petitioners (who should be provided for, agreeable to the Weight of their Trust) are wholly disabled from undertaking, or attending any other Occupation, for their Support and Maintenance, for which their present Appointments are, for the following very obvious Reasons, insufficient.”

“ That the Price of Diet, Lodging, Cloathing, Fire, and every necessary Provision is raised, and, as your Petitioners apprehend, is three Times as great as when the Salaries of your Petitioners were first appointed.”

“ That your Petitioners are, thereby, reduced to excessive Straits and Difficulties, being altogether unequal to such heavy Expences, while their Salaries continue as small as ever, notwithstanding the great Encrease of their Business and Fatigue.”

“ That your Petitioners while they labour under such pressing Necessities, (especially those who are in the Receipt of Cash) are fearful that their strictest and severest Oeconomy cannot preserve them from falling in Arrear to his Majesty.”

“ That it hath lately been thought reasonable to raise the Salaries of most People in Military and

Civil Employments, whose Plea, however, could not be equal to that of your Petitioners."

" That your Petitioners formerly applied for Relief to the late Sir *Marmaduke Wyvill*, then Post-master-General of *Ireland*, but as it happened about the Time of his Brother's Death, nothing was done for your Petitioners, tho' their Necessities have been, and are daily encreasing."

" That, Petitioners beg leave to annex a List of their several Salaries, as they stand, in Seniority, which is the whole of their Dependence, not being intitled to, or having any material Perquisites, which Difficulty some of them have long laboured under, chiefly at the Expence and Support of their Friends."

" That, Petitioners beg Leave to acquaint your Honour, that, on the late Regulations in the Office (being informed that the Porters Salaries were raised from three to eight Shillings per Week, each, which they thought very considerable) they were in great Hopes and Expectation, something was done, or intended for them; but they now apprehend, and have Reason to believe the contrary."

" That the great Opinion Petitioners entertain of your Honour's Readiness and Desire to regulate the Office, and redress Grievances, (which justly merit your Honour's Attention, and such they hope these are) emboldens them, at this Time, tho' in the midst of the Hurry You are so necessarily engaged in; to give your Honour this Trouble, and hope from the Justness of their Cause to be excused; and, at the same Time to assure your Honour, that the Distress must be great, and the Necessity urgent, which could possibly compel them to

to it; though your Petitioners have great Dependence on your Humanity and Goodness.

MAY it therefore please your Honour, to consider the Premises with your usual Benivolence, and to appoint, or procure such Relief for your Petitioners, as shall seem equitable to your Honour,

AND your Petitioners will sincerely pray.

Time employed	Salaries	
17 Years	30 l. per Ann.	— Richard Tucker.
15 Years	28 l. Ditto	— Thomas Lee.
9 Years	15 l. Ditto	— Coghill Haggerty.
7 Years	14 l. Ditto	— Christopher Byron.
4 Years	12 l. Ditto	— Samuel Dixon.
3 Years	10 l. Ditto	— Marmaduke Lamont.

“ That this Petition was in Words and Substance the same, except the two last Paragraphs before the Prayer, which was addressed to your Honours, under Cover to Mr. *Martin*, when in *London*, and which Petitioners do now again most earnestly beseech your Honours Consideration of, and how far this humble Petition was improper to lay before you, your Honours in Charity and tender Feelings for our Sufferings will judge.”

“ It represented further, that Sir *Thomas*, on his Entrance into the Business of the Post-Office here, found it in such an embarrassed, and irregular Situation, and was so perplexed with Petitions and Complaints, that it took up his utmost Pains and Attention, to reduce it into any tolerable Order, and redress the the Grievances complained of; all which seemed to have been owing to the erroneous and evil Management of Mr. *Martin*, and to shew, that even Sir *Thomas Prendergast* possessed more Humanity than to approve of his cruel Proceedings, the following Case was set forth.

“ One

“ One *John Lewis*, formerly a Letter Carrier, had, by employing bad Deputies, fallen in Arrear to his Majesty, for which he was suspended ; and during his Suspension, a favourite Letter Carrier of the Comptroller’s officiated in his Place. — After he had discharged the Demand, frequent Applications were made for his Restoration, to the Comptroller, (as at this Time none durst presume to do so immediately to Sir *Marmaduke*) and tho’ these Applications were enforced by several Merchants and People of Credit, yet he was not restored ’till after a Suspension of eight Months, in which melancholy Season, he, his Wife, and five Children, were reduced to the utmost Distress.”

“ After his Restoration, none could behave with more Diligence and Circumspection than he did ; but having unluckily dropped some Words, tending to a Suspicion of the Comptroller, and his Designs to Prejudice him, which were officially brought to his Ears, he, in Resentment, laid hold of every Opportunity to distress said *Lewis*, and by the following Means effected it.”

“ It was then the Custom for the Letter Carriers to pay in their Money once a Month at the Bank, and take a Receipt for it, accountable to the Treasurer, Sir *Marmaduke Wyvill* : Accordingly, the Comptroller having appointed the Day of Payment, Mr. *Lewis* paid in the Money, but omitted returning the Receipt ’till next Morning ; this was Opportunity sufficient for the Comptroller, to suspend him, even late that Night, and without further Enquiry ; tho’ it is presumed, it will appear from the Face of the Books, that he was one of the first, possibly the very first that complied with that Order ; and tho’ the Receipt was sent inclosed in a Letter the next Morning, by Mr. *Magran*, to Mr. *Martin*, that he might see the Money had been paid, yet, for this trivial Fault (if it was one) his Suspension was continued, and the poor Man totally

totally dismissed from his Employment, just as he was endeavouring to surmount the Difficulties his former Suspension of eight Months reduced him to, and the Comptroller's Favourite was again put into his Place.— Thus was Mr. *Martin's* Malignancy gratified, and the Ruin of a poor innocent Man accomplished; — tho' the whole Charge against him was but 1*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* as appears by the following Receipt, and that Mr. *Martin*, at the same Time, was in Possession of Security, for said *Lewis*, to the Amount of 400*l.* to his Majesty."

Received from Mr. John Lewis, One Pound, Sixteen Shillings, and Nine Pence, on Account of the Balance due by him at the Time of his Dismiss, in 1752, and which is the Sum that appears to be due, on that Account, after all Allowances made. Dublin, 22d. May, 1755.

P. MAGRAN.

" And, therefore, Sir *Thomas Prendergast* on a clear Conviction of the Malice of the whole Proceeding, immediately restored him to his former Employment. §"

After instancing many Abuses, and great Severities of Mr. Martin toward the Officers in general, which would only appear ridiculous to recite here, — the Petition set forth.

" That, to enumerate the many and extraordinary Grievances, the Officers in general have laboured under, by the abusive Controul practised in this

§ It may not be thought improper to observe, that *Lewis* continued in his Employment from this Time, 'till after the Death of Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, when Mr. *Martin* again reassumed all his former Greatness; and the very favourite Letter Carrier (which is mentioned without any Intention to disparage him) already hinted at, was again brought into Play, after being out of that Office five or six Years; and what may be more surprizing is, that, though he was at first employed occasionally, yet he very soon became principally concerned, and in *Lewis's* very Employment, who, in this Change of Affairs, left the World and the Employment to themselves, having dyed of a broken Heart, occasioned, as was supposed, by the Apprehension of his precarious Situation and ill Treatment.

this Office, would swell this Address beyond the Intention, and take up too much of their Honours Time; *and for the same Reason, and that it was not attended by any material Consequence, is also omitted here, an Application to Sir Thomas Prendergast, by Mr. Byron, inserted at large in the Petition, for a Redress of several new Severities and Hardships introduced at that Time, and requesting his Consideration of our former Petition in Page 11.*"

" That, Sir *Thomas*, some Time after, in Answer to the Application above-mentioned, said that he had not been unmindful of our Petition, but that as we were to rise by Succession to more valuable Employments, there could not be any great Cause of Complaint; and that I, in particular, had been lately raised, which was indeed true, from eldest Supernumerary to Office-keeper, that was from fourteen to fifteen Pounds a Year. — *A very considerable Advance!*"

" That, soon after this, Mr. *John Tyrill*, our first Clerk of the Road dyed, in whose Room a young Gentleman, one Mr. *Gillmer*, was appointed, and officiated in that Station for some Time; but Mr. *John Lee* (*who had the Right*) being afterwards admitted to that Employment, Mr. *Gilmer* was appointed, and now continues in Mr. *Lee's* Place, as second Clerk of the Road; this Gentleman had never been employed in the Office before, and was, consequently, utterly unacquainted with the Business of it."

" That, this Alteration was no Advancement to any of the junior Clerks, but seemed rather a Prevention of any future Expectancy of it, as it was, in all human Probability, putting a better Life than their own over them; and this too, was done by Sir *Thomas*, notwithstanding his recent Supposition of our rising in Succession; and, therefore, this

this enormous Abuse was particularly submitted to the Consideration of their Honours. **

This Address further represented, " That, from the Time of my Commencement as an Officer in the Big-Office, and for some Years before, and until Sir *Thomas Prendergast* came over Postmaster, that besides the Office of Supernumerary (for which I then had 14*l.* a Year) I was employed as Clerk in the Accompts to the Comptroller, and made up all the Deputies Accompts in *Ireland*, which was first *thrice*, afterwards *twice* the Trouble it now is; examined and made up the dead and insolvent Letters, and also acted in, and did his private Business, exclusive of preparing and making out the quarterly *General Accompts, Abstracts, &c.* to go to *England*, besides entering the Dockets each Post Morning, and making up the Charges on the *Dublin Letter-Carriers*; and sometimes Posting the Books, and regulating the Accompts of the Secretary's Office: In all which different Duties, I hope, I acted with Integrity, and to the Satisfaction of my Employer; and for which I was allowed but 10*l.* a Year; Part whereof still remains unpaid. §

C

" As

** This particular Complaint against Sir *Thomas*, established him my inveterate Enemy; as it was well known he sold that Employment to Mr. *Gilmer* for a very valuable Consideration, and notwithstanding all his *Interest, Power, Influence, and Application*, the then upright and benevolent Nobleman, and Gentleman, (the Earl of *Leicester*, and Sir *Everard Fawkner*, his Majesty's Post-master-General) to whom this single Petition was addressed, ordered their Surveyor over here from *London*; who, on Inspection into the Matter, absolutely dismissed said Mr. *Gilmer*, as will be further seen in the Course of these Papers.

§ There are five Persons now employed to do the Business above-mentioned, *viz.*

One at — — — — — £. 40 per Ann.

Three at 35*l.* Each — — — — 105 *Ditto*

And One whose Salary and Benefit I } 50 *Ditto*
know not, but suppose them at — — — —

In all £. 195 per Ann.
And

“ As the extraordinary Hurry and close Application to the *Accomptant's* Business, at this Time, occasioned by the many Alterations in the Office, engaged my whole Time, except what my other Duty as an Officer required, I waited on Mr. *Martin* at his own House, and told him (*in Friendship*) I was not able to attend it, and my other Duties longer; but that if he would make my Place in his own Office, reasonably sufficient, I would resign my other Employment, and entirely attend his.”

“ He replied, he would undertake to do his own Business, but was obliged, notwithstanding, to employ a Stranger to the Business to assist him, and at a great Advance of Salary; and carried a most extraordinary Resentment against me, by constantly complaining to Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, and endeavouring to exaggerate every trifling, accidental Mistake of mine into a real criminal Neglect. §”

“ That I could not set forth what were the Comptroller's Motives for this uncharitable Treatment, as I never willingly disobliged him; but, on the contrary, exerted my utmost Diligence and Ability to serve him on all Occasions; and that, even then, in his Absence on Post-Mornings, I frequently did his Business, and made up the Charge of Revenue, for his Ease, and to oblige him, without

And altho' the former Accomptants, as well as Mr. *Martin* himself, (being amply allowed for so doing, and nothing, as yet, extracted from him, but the contrary) were obliged out of their own Pockets, to pay the Clerks employed under them in the Accomptant's Department; yet these Salaries, &c. are now paid out of the King's Revenue, — but whether this be burthening the Revenue or not, or that the Business is better performed, let those look to it, whose Duty it is.

§ This, however, he was not successful in, as Sir *Thomas* had the Sense, as well as Resolution to hear both Parties; and was not (*Puppet-like*) to be led by the Dictates of a Comptroller, whose Complaints appeared to be malicious; and rather served, than hurted me in the Opinion of Sir *Thomas* — against whose Attempt to rob us of our Succession, I had not, indeed, at this Time complained to his Majesty's Post-master-General.

out the least Thanks or Reward, but that of malicious Complaints, to prejudice me with Sir *Thomas Prendergast*; but that I was apprehensive, and had good Reason to believe, he would use all Means to have me removed or dismissed, and every Person he thought equal, or desirous of being equal, to their Employments; or would attempt an Enquiry into their Rights in the Office. §

The Remainder of the Petition contained various Instances of Mr. Martin's absurd and ridiculous Conduct towards the Officers, and concluded thus.

“ I am quite unassisted in this hazardous Undertaking, and have neither Friends or Interest to recommend me to your Honours, and should I be deprived of my small Employ, on this Occasion, having nothing left, but my Industry, to recommend and support me.— Yet, as I apprehend myself not to have been altogether unserviceable in this Community, whereof I have been so long a Member; and that I have always conducted myself, in my humble Station, as my Duty required: (*Having legally advanced the Revenue of his Majesty, by a Method unnoticed, and unpractised, by any Officer here before me*) I think myself, at least, intitled to humane Treatment;— and being persuaded, that were you made acquainted with the Difficulties and Hardships imposed on your active and useful Officers here, in general, by your subordinate and sub-reptitious Delegates, which your Distance and high Stations prevent your immediate Knowledge of,

C 2 they

§ From the Time of my being first employed by Mr. Martin, and 'till after Sir Marmaduke Wyvill dyed, I never had the least Difference with him, nor had he the least Cause of Complaint; but all the Fidelity, Gratitude and Respect due to a Benefactor, were constantly observed by me to him: — Yet, all on a sudden, as soon as Sir Thomas Prendergast came over, he became my implacable Enemy, and for no other Cause, I solemnly declare, that I could conceive, than my having acquired more Knowledge of the Business, and Affairs of the Office, than he chose I should possest; which probably may be a material Objection against me this Day.

they would certainly be removed or redressed; — therefore, as I cannot, for my own Part, longer silently or slavishly submit to such Abuses, let what will be the Consequence; and depending on Honesty and Truth for my Support, and your Honours known Justice, and Humanity for Protection, I have, for the present, thus far ventured."

This Address, simple and unsupported as it was, yet, underwent a Scrutiny both in *London* and here, too tedious to be repeated; and various and artful were the Contrivances of the Authors of the Abuses complained of, to mitigate the Justice of his Majesty's Post-Master-General, who, it was said (by a Person whose Employment intitled him to the best Intelligence) had impowered their Surveyor, Mr. *W—n*, to dismiss, or suspend, either, or both of them, and particularly Sir *Thomas Prendergast*.

And when the general Character of each of the Persons complained of is considered, and the incorrigible Malignancy of their Hearts: — Also, how much it was in their Power, by their Situation, to vent their Spleen, it will not be thought improbable, that every wicked Artifice was contrived and practised by them, against the Author of their deserved Disgrace.

The Comptroller promised to Answer distinctly, with respect to the Charges brought against him; but how to go about it was the Difficulty. — As for Sir *Thomas*, all his Endeavours, to support his unjust Proceeding, proved abortive; — for Truth shone with so bright a Lustre, that the Countenance of Opposition could not bear its Beams: However it was thought expedient to do something to blunt the Edge of the Accusation, and palliate its Truth: And, accordingly, Mr. *W—n* began with fifty eight Queries, which he delivered to me in Writing, on the 27th of *November*, 1756, and Answers were returned, to each distinctly, on the Day after; but these Answers being found too full and expressive

pressive to answer their End, and the Surveyor being also willing, as was supposed, to indulge and serve Mr. *Martin*, took a Method of asking the Clerks Questions in the Office, in the Midst of Business, and when Mr. *Martin* was present, which prevented them from explaining their Sentiments with Truth and Freedom, of which they complained to me, and I mentioned it to Mr. *W——n*, and to prevent such partial Proceeding for the future, a Copy of the following Paper was delivered.

“ We, the Persons hereunto subscribing, do
 “ confess and acknowledge, that on any Enquiry
 “ that was to be made, concerning the Validity of
 “ Matters contained in a Case and Petition, drawn
 “ up and transmitted to the Right Honourable and
 “ Honourable his Majesty’s Postmasters-General,
 “ by Mr. *Christopher Byron*, in behalf of himself
 “ and Others, that our Advice and Request to him
 “ that if it was found expedient, or necessary, was,
 “ for us to be referred to, or examined on that
 “ Head, that it might be in a solemn Manner,
 “ on Oath, and not otherwise; as we apprehend
 “ any other Method would be incompatible with
 “ our present Situations in Office:— But that Man-
 “ ner of Enquiry (as we are informed) being
 “ thought unnecessary or improper, we have, at the
 “ Request of said *Christopher Byron*, again, carefully
 “ and impartially read over, and examined the
 “ Copy thereof, given to us by him (if correctly
 “ or faithfully copied) and do say, that, except
 “ Mistakes of Dates, or Periods of Time, which
 “ we do not pretend to the certain Knowledge of,
 “ that the Tenor of it, or so much thereof, as re-
 “ lates particularly to us, and this Office, to the
 “ best of our Conception, Recollection, and Belief,
 “ is truly set forth.”

General Post-Office, Dublin, *Richard Tucker.*

4th December, 1756. *Thomas Lee.*

Coghill Haggerty.

Samuel Dixon.

To the above *Protest*, against Mr. *W—n*'s Manner of Proceeding and Enquiry, the following was subjoined.

" Mr. *Byron* apprehending by Mr. *W—n*, that in Consequence of the above-mentioned Case and Petition, Mr. *Martin* was to give in an Answer in Writing, to which Petitioner, if able, was to make a Reply. — The Method seemed so eligible and equitable, that nothing could be more satisfactory to the Petitioner, as he thereby imagined he would have an Opportunity of seeing any Error he might have committed, either through Ignorance, Misapprehension, or Misinformation; but that Method either being delayed or denied, the afore-mentioned one of Enquiry, in a solemn Manner, was proposed: But that also was thought irregular or improper, and Queries were given to the Petitioner, the 27th of *November*, 1756, by Mr. *W—n*, to which he returned Answers the Day following."

" The Petitioner also apprehending by several Conversations he had with Mr. *W—n*, that he had been guilty of Mistakes, with respect to Dates and Periods of Time, and other Faults in the Chain of his Petition; he carefully, and with cooler Reflection, examined, and read it over, and does confess there may, and believes there are, Mistakes of that Nature, as well as other immaterial ones contained in it; owing to the Hurry it was done in, and chiefly, on Recollection, an erroneous Record; and that it is, in some Places, harshly, and with too much Anger, (the natural Consequence resulting from Oppression and Abuse) set forth: — But conscious that he never intended setting forth a Falshood, hopes to be excused in saying, to the best of his Knowledge, Conception and Belief, that the Tenor or Substance of it is true; — which he most humbly submits."

" The Petitioner humbly begs Leave to say, that, if any Thing demonstrable or convincing had been offered,

offered, of his being in Fault, by misapprehending of Orders, or any other Particular set forth, he would with the greatest Chearfulness, as readily and publicly retract, as ever he advanced his Error; and make any Concession, or Submission, that could be expected; but cannot do it under the Appellation of a *Lier*; a Name which he utterly disowns and detests; and appeals to Mr. *Martin*, who, he hopes, will do him Justice for a contrary Character."

General Post-Office, *Dublin*,

4th December, 1756

CHRIST. BYRON.

Six Days after the Delivery of this Paper, as it was requisite that something should be done for Form's Sake at least, and to enable the Surveyor to make his Report; I received the following Letter.

General Post-Office, *December 10th, 1756.*

" Sir,

" As you have requested that Mr. *John Lee*,
 " Mr. *Richard Tucker*, Mr. *Thomas Lee*, Mr. *Coghill*
 " *Haggerty*, and Mr. *Samuel Dixon*, may be examined concerning Matters contained in a Petition, transmitted by you to his Majesty's Post-Master-General, please to acquaint the above named Gentlemen, that I beg they will attend for that Purpose at this Office to Morrow, the 11th Instant, at 9 o'Clock in the Morning.

" I am, Sir, your most humble Servant.

" JOHN WILSON.

To Mr. *Christopher Byron*.

In Obedience to this Direction, the above named Gentlemen attended, and were examined, by Mr. *Wilson*, in Mr. *Martin*'s Presence, but not on Oath as had been requested: what further Progress he made after this, Examination, or what the Substance of his Report was to his Superiors, in *England*,

land, never came to our Knowledge, further than what will appear in the Sequel.

This much with Gratitude is confessed, that he then established every Officer in the Possession of his right Employment, made considerable Augmentations to the Salaries of all the Junior Officers, and added 20l. a Year to mine, which was before but 15l. and at the same Time informed us, *That it was his Majesty's Post-Master-General's Order, that for the future, no Person whatsoever should be put over our Heads, but that every Officer should rise according to Seniority.*

Now our Affairs seemed to be in a promising Train, all Matters in Dispute were subsided, or at least seemingly compromised for a While; nor was it supposed that any Attempt to destroy, or even invade the established System of our regular Succession, would ever be renewed, But, alas! How short lived are our most sanguine Hopes! How uncertain our best Enjoyments! Our upright and impartial Friends the Earl of *Leicester* and Sir *Everard Fawke*n^{er} died, and with them, as the Event demonstrated, all our future Expectations of seeing that honourable and equitable Rule they had so lately established, inviolably observed.

For, on the like Invasion of our Rights of Succession, we were again obliged to apply, by Petition, to the present Post-Masters-General, forwarded to *London* the 10th of *March*, 1761, as followeth.

*To the Right Honourable the Earl of BESBOROUGH,
and the Honourable ROBERT HAMPDEN, Esq.
His Majesty's Post-Masters-General.*

The CASE and PETITION of the OFFICERS of
the General Post-Office, *Dublin*.

Most humbly sheweth,

“ **T**HAT the Employments of your Petitioners are not only of the greatest Trust; but require

quire above all other Civil Employments under the Crown; — the most strict, assiduous, and constant Attendance, — a Duty which however absolutely necessary and severe in itself, does not in its Nature admit of the least Indulgence, or Relaxation from Business; insomuch so, that your Petitioners cannot in the whole Course of their Lives, promise or purpose any one entire Day to themselves, — tho' in the Execution of which, they beg Leave to say, the utmost Care, Fidelity, and Diligence, hath been by them, particularly by those of the first Class, constantly and faithfully observed.

“ That your Petitioners are the Persons who really and truly have the executive Part and Burden of the General Post-Office Business, of this Kingdom, on their Hands; in which they have acted for a long and Series of Years, without absenting themselves (willfully) at any Time, from the necessary Attendance and Duty of their Employment.

“ That it is and has been in a great Measure owing to Petitioners Care, Experience and Attention to the Business, that the Revenue of this Office was, and is promoted and advanced, which certainly will and ever must be the Case, *while we are protected in our just Pretensions, and supported in the exclusive Rights, and Privileges of our different Departments.*

“ That the chief and only Motive, to induce your Petitioners, to undergo and conduct themselves, Night and Day, through the Hardships of this Office, from their first Introduction therein, was, and is, the Presumption of rising in regular Succession.

“ That it is humbly presumed a Vacancy did happen, whereby a Succession was to take Place, on the Death of Mr. *Walter Palliser*, late Alphabet Keeper to this Office.

“ That Petitioners beg Leave to represent to your Honours what was done by them on that *Occasion,*

casion, which will best appear from the Act itself, of which the following is an exact Copy, and which it is presumed will give the clearest Information.

To the Right Honourable WILLIAM HENRY FORTESCUE, Esq. Deputy Post-Master General.

“ Honoured Sir,

“ Mr. *John Lee* being confined by a severe Fit
“ of the Gout, for some Time past, prevented his
“ waiting on you as he intended, and as he is still
“ too weak to venture abroad, is obliged (in con-
“ junction with us) to take this Method, which we
“ hope you will excuse, of reminding you; that on
“ the Death of Mr. *Walter Palliser*, late Alphabet
“ Keeper, he immediately waited on you, to put in
“ for his Right of Succession to that Employment,
“ agreeable to the Custom and Usage of this Office.

“ As we have not been favoured with any In-
“ formation or Order in Consequence thereof, and
“ having some Reason to apprehend, that the Person
“ who officiated in that Employment under Mr. *Pal-*
“ *liser*, has been applying to be established therein,
“ on a Presumption of some Agreement made be-
“ tween them in Mr. *Palliser*’s Life-time; without
“ any other Title, Pretention or Claim, in Equity
“ or Justice thereto; it is (if so) a Circumstance of
“ such a Nature, that we can not avoid expressing
“ our Concern and Surprize, as well as being alarm-
“ ed on the Occasion.

“ For, as it cannot, with any Sort of Propriety
“ be conceived, neither will it we hope be denied,
“ that any Bargain, or Agreement, which Mr. *Pal-*
“ *liser* did, or could make, with any Clerk, or As-
“ sistant, jointly or otherwise, in his Office; during
“ his Life-time, should or can possibly affect or pre-
“ vent our long and faithful Services; as well as hard
“ laboured for Right of Succession always under-
“ stood, and even lately established and settled, by
“ Means,

“ Means, and on Account of our Application to the
“ late Post-Masters-General, on a similar Occasion;
“ and which we are convinced would still be the Case,
“ if this Matter had not been misrepresented to
“ their Honours the present Post-Masters General,
“ by the late Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, Bart.

“ We therefore humbly request, as Matter of
“ Right, as we humbly apprehend, that you will
“ be pleased to appoint, or procure, such Redress
“ for us, as our Case (in your known Justice and
“ Equity) may appear to deserve.

We are, Sir, with great respect,
your very dutiful obedient and humb. Servants,

<i>Richard Boulger.</i>	<i>John Lee,</i>
<i>Richard Lockebart.</i>	<i>Thomas Jones.</i>
<i>George Skerrit.</i>	<i>Richard Tucker.</i>
<i>Walter Hickman.</i>	<i>Thomas Lee.</i>
<i>William Norris,</i>	<i>Coghill Haggerty.</i>
	<i>Christopher Byron.</i>

This short Remonstrance was delivered by Petitioners, to the Secretary, with our Request that he would convey it, in the speediest Manner; to the Post-Master General here.

“ That in six Days after this Letter was sent, it was returned to your Petitioners, by the Comptroller of this Office; who, at same Time, informed your Petitioners, that the Regulation, with Respect to the Alphabet, had been made before Mr. *Fortescue*’s Time, and that that Employment was conferred on the Hon. *Ponsonby Moore*, Esq.— and that we ought to have made our Application at the Time that Mr. *Edmond Browning* was appointed joint Alphabet-Keeper with Mr. *Palliser*; but if we thought proper, we might apply to your Honours to be redressed.

“ Your Petitioners beg Leave, humbly, to observe, that they apprehend this Scheme was layed and intended for the Service of Mr. *Browning* only, by the late Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, Bart. who, ~~are~~

are sorry to say, rendered himself for ever memorable, by a Conduct toward the Officers established here, before his Time, to which we cannot give a softer Appellation, than that of *Tyranny*, and *Oppression*; and who it is presumed, and is sufficiently apparent, intended the Reversion of that Employment for said Mr. *Browning*, tho' he, Mr. *Browning*, never held any one Place in this Office, where a Succession was established or implied; and who was brought in but the other Day, comparatively to your Petitioners Time and Standing, and who was introduced as a Supernumerary, without Pay, and on Expectancy only, (as was also the Case of others of your Petitioners subscribing hereto) and though he had quited the Office for some Time, yet such was Sir *Thomas*'s Partiality, that he was sent for to the Country, and, in a short Time, passed thro' the Office of Clerk to the Secretary, then acted for a Quarter of a Year as occasional, or nominal Secretary, and received the Salary, tho' never established as such; and all this by downright arbitrary Violence, in Preference to, and Prejudice of, an inoffensive and diligent Man, and deserving old Officer; & who, also, was compelled to attend and execute the Business; tho' Mr. *Browning* received the Salary for it, and was made joint Alphabet-keeper with Mr. *Palliser*, as well as Bag-maker to this Office.

" This Method of joining, or disjoining Employments, being a Circumstance unprecedented, and unheard of before in this Office, was not conceived by us then to be sufficient Cause of grounding a Complaint; or at this Time, of depriving us of a Right of Succession, to which we humbly apprehend we are well intitled; and that any Advantage should be then taken, from our Ignorance, or Misapprehension of the Matter, was, in our humble Opinion, no other, than an Innovation, founded

§ Mr. *Pat. Magran.*

ed on Pretences that overturn all Right, and confound all Reason."

" That this disagreeable Task we are obliged to undertake, of mentioning the Conduct of our late Superior in Office, is a Circumstance, that nothing but our own Justification, and future Hopes, could possibly prompt us to ; and we hope to be excused here, for recapitulating, Part of the Grievances and Oppressions we laboured under, and which at length forced us to complain, as every other Method for our Relief, was found impracticable."

" Soon after Sir *Thomas Prendergast* came over here, Deputy Post-Master-General, Mr. *John Tyrill*, our first Clerk of the Road, died ; — a known and confessed good Officer, as well as a good Man, who had regularly succeeded to that Employment, having been upwards of fifty Years an Officer in this Office : — In his Room and Stead, Sir *Thomas Prendergast* appointed, and put in, one Mr. *John Gilmer*, a young Gentleman, who never before had been employed in the Post-Office, and, therefore, consequently utterly unacquainted with the Business.

" As Mr. *Walter Palliser*, then Alphabet-Keeper, and next in Station to Mr. *Tyrill*, and standing as Clerk of a Road, declined putting in for that Employ (tho' he often mentioned it) Mr. *John Lee*, who was, at the Time of Mr *Tyrill's* Death, second Clerk of the Road, applied by Letter to the late Earl of *Leicester* for his Right of Succession, and complained of Sir *Thomas Prendergast's* Proceeding ; whereby he, Mr. *John Lee*, was so much injured, after four or five and twenty Years faithful and diligent Service in Office."

" Mr. *John Lee* immediatly received a Letter from the good Earl of *Leicester*, which relieved him from all Doubts concerning his Right being invaded ; and at the same Time a Letter came to Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, the Consequence of which was, that

that Mr. *John Lee* was made first Clerk of the Road, in the Room and Stead of Mr. *Tyrill*."

" This Order for Mr. *Lee*'s Appointment, was productive of constant Ill-nature and Resentment from Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, which manifestly appeared ever after, in all his Conduct towards Mr. *Lee*."

" Notwithstanding this positive Order, (which it is presumed was conceived in such Terms, as would have prevented any other Person from acting so contrary to Rule) Sir *Thomas* only changed Hands with Mr. *Lee*, had appointed Mr. *Gilmer* second Clerk in Mr. *Lee*'s Stead, in which Place Mr. *Gilmer* continued to act, and received the Salary, and Benefits, for sixteen Months afterwards, as well as can be remembered."

" During this Time, Mr. *Thomas Jones* (Nephew to the late Sir *Marmaduke Wyvill*, who was, and now is, next in Station to Mr. *John Lee*) as well as all the Rest of the Officers under him, suffered greatly in their Employments; in so much, that a Petition was transmitted from this Office, complaining (as before mentioned) of our Situation, and praying for Relief."

" Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, as is presumed, being made acquainted with this Matter, (and a Surveyor being sent over from *London* with Orders to enquire into, and regulate the Office) either thinking by his own Power and Influence to lay aside our Pretensions, or not willing to do us the Justice he ought, sent his Secretary (then Mr. *Magran*) to Mr. *Jones* with this Message;

That if he, Mr. Jones, would write to his Friends in London, (who had applied to my Lord Leicester in his Behalf) that every Thing had been done, here, to his Satisfaction, and remain in the Place he then was; he, Sir

§ The preceding Petition in 1755, by C. *Byron*, to the Earl of *Leicester*, and Sir *Everard Fawkener*.

Sir Thomas, would allow him an Addition to his then Salary of twenty Pounds a Year.

“ This Proposal was, in the End, rejected by Mr. *Jones*, who, on that Occasion, wrote a Letter to Mr. *Willson* (the Surveyor from *London*, then here) requesting if he had any Order from the Post-Master-General, concerning him, that he would communicate it as soon as possible.”

“ The next Night, being Post-night, Mr. *Gilmer* was dismissed in the public Office, by Mr. *Willson*, — and Mr. *Jones* was appointed second Clerk of the Road, as well as every other Officer put in his proper Place, with an additional Salary to several of the younger Officers, who much wanted it, (and here we beg Leave to observe to your Honours, that the Salaries of the whole, having been appointed, when every necessary Provision was much cheaper than it now is, bear no Proportion to the present expensive Time, notwithstanding the great Encrease of our Busines and Fatigue) and at the same Time, when Mr. *Willson* had made the Regulation as above, he, also, was pleased to communicate to us the following material and agreeable Order, whereon we are the more encouraged to found our present Address, *viz.*”

“ THAT IT WAS HIS MAJESTY’S POST-MASTER-GENERAL’S ORDER, THAT, FOR THE FUTURE, NO PERSON SHOULD BE PUT OVER OUR HEADS, BUT THAT EVERY OFFICER SHOULD RISE ACCORDING TO SENIORITY, — IF HE MERITED IT.”

“ Such was the Relief, and such was the Order, of your Honours noble, just, and generous Predecessors in Office, the Earl of LEICESTER and Sir EVERARD FAWKENER, Bart. whose Memory will be for ever held in the utmost Veneration, by a little, tho’ grateful, and thankful Community here: — And shall any artful Design, calculated through Resentment and Cunning, by a disappointed

ed Delegate in Office, fired with Resentment against innocent and inoffensive Men, be productive of any Deletion of such merciful, and equitable Orders, (which could not be effected, or attempted, in the Life-time of the Donors) and this too under the Administration of a BESBOROUGH and a HAMPDEN? — God. forbid!

“ Gloomy and melancholy was the Aspect of our Situation after this, and, altho', made almost insupportable, by the Severity of multiplied, unnecessary, and nugatory Orders, we continued to act with redoubled Diligence, against a Torrent of implacable Resentment.”

“ We, your Honours Petitioners, always depending, and ever with Confidence relying on your Justice for Protection, have nothing to fear at any Time, but from Misrepresentation:— That this was the Case, with Respect to the Alphabet, was never doubted.— And the Construction we now put on that Proceeding is, that Sir *Thomas Prendergast* informed your Honours, that that Employment was a Place unconnected with, and abstracted from the great Office, and, therefore, not in the Meaning of the Order, whereby a regular Succession, (always understood) was established.”

“ That the Alphabet-Office, at present, is not in, nor so contiguous to, the great Office as formerly, is most certain; — but that the Employment of Alphabet-keeper (in the Memory of the oldest Officer here) whenever it was vacant, or even that Officer on any Occasion absent, or suspended, was always offered to, filled by, or the Business done, by one of the Clerks of the Road, or other old and experienced Officer, — is also as certain.”

“ This self-evident Fact will admit of no Doubt, when your Honours are informed (which we here beg Leave to do) that the Employment of Alphabet-keeper has a Road annexed to it (that

is

is the Privilege of sending and serving News-papers) which at present is the great *Munster* Road."

" If it was at any Time lately conceived, that the Alphabet was, or should be, a Place abstracted from the Course of Succession in this Office, and by its Situation ought not to be connected to, or interfere with the great Office, but should be a Place separate and distinct in itself.— The same Consideration, if a Regulation of that Nature was in Contemplation, would doubtless transfer the Privilege and Benefit of the Road from the Alphabet-keeper's Employment, to that of the Officer who acted in, and did the Business of the Road."

" That the Alphabet-keeper's Employment is of much more Ease, and not liable to the severe Duty of the general Letter-Office, is what we beg Leave to inform your Honours; and, therefore, seems as if it was designed for the Purpose and Benefit of an old Officer, unable longer to go thro' the Fatigue of an Office, where his Health and Strength had been exhausted; and, who, after a long and faithful Discharge of Duty, had that only comfortable Retreat provided for the Remainder of his Life."

" Therefore to you, much-honoured Sirs, we appeal for Redress, and on you for our own Support, and every Thing that is dear to us, we must depend: And relying wholly on your Honours known and confessed Benevolence, as well as your Justice and Love to Mankind, we are, thus far (in Hurry and Anxiety, and unacquainted with the necessary Forms of Address) encouraged to lay our present Case before you, humbly requesting and hoping,

" THAT your Honours will be pleased, to take the Matter into your tender Consideration, and order us such Relief, as the Nature and Circumstance of our Situation may appear to deserve."

AND we will ever Pray.

E

Though

Though this humble Remonstrance was signed by all the Officers who had a Right to Succession, and not by a single Person, as the former: And, therefore, could not have been rejected, without the most manifest Partiality and Violence: Yet, how shall I mention it? the Answer we received, or, at least that was read to us, by Mr. F——e, their Deputy Post-Master here, was, — *That they had thought proper to confirm the Appointment made of Mr. Palliser's Successor, and desired that we should never trouble them any more on that, or any other, Occasion.* — No Redress or Satisfaction was now to be expected; it seemed rather to have been determined, to establish such a Precedent, for the future, as would deprive the Officers of all Hopes of rising in their Stations, or even of the common Right of complaining, when they thought themselves injured: For that Reason, the Author of the foregoing Complaints was, at any Rate, to be removed: — How this was managed, and how equitable the Proceedings were, will be best judged of, from the following Addres, transmitted to *London*, the 14th of *September*, 1761.

An ADDRESS to the Right Honourable WILLIAM Earl of BESBOROUGH, and ROBERT HAMPDEN, Esq. His Majesty's Post-Master-General.

May it please your Lordship, and Honour.

“ **T**O redress the Injured, and protect suffering Innocence, from the iniquitous Machinations, and oppressive Tyranny of weak, and wicked Men, seems to have been the original Design of Providence, in placing the best and most deserving Persons in the most honourable Stations. That which your

your Honours so eminently fill, encourages me to hope that this Address will, from its uncommon Nature and Circumstances, at least merit your favourable Attention and Notice; a Favour which was constantly denied me here, as you will see afterwards, and, therefore, has laid me under the more immediate Necessity of appealing to your Honours, in whom, only, the Power is vested of redressing the various and complicated Distresses which the under Clerks of his Majesty's Post-Office, in *Dublin*, in general, and I in particular, have for a Series of Years, tho' silently, yet most severely felt and laboured under."

" I am certain, that the Distress which I take the Liberty of representing, in this Manner, will, if I am patiently heard to the End, appear to your Honours the most unpreserved and cruel, that has been yet known or heard of, in any one Office held under his Majesty, this only excepted; and for that Reason, most urgently demands and claims your immediate Inspection and Redress."

Notwithstanding my Insignificance, or Obscurity, I have always thought myself intitled to the Liberty (as I apprehend every Man is) of making my private Sentiment, founded on Truth and Reason, the Rule and Motive of my Conduct and Actions; and that, as I was not born to be a Slave, so I have always thought it my Duty to oppose Tyrannical Oppression in every Shape, and complain of the Injuries imposed by it, whensoever, or by whomsoever committed, and particularly, when levelled against me or my Brother Officers."

" But, as this Method of Proceeding, tho' most equitable in itself, could only affect those iniquitous Men who were the Occasions of it, so it has naturally raised the lawless Hand of ill-placed Power and Authority against me: Thus I have not only been sometimes suspended from my Employment, even for doing my Duty as I ought, and according

to the Orders I had received, but at all Times without any real, sufficient, or just Cause assigned; and as my Diligence and Punctuality in my Station rendered me always superior to Censure, the least Shadow of Offence was readily grasped at, and the most trifling and absurd Reasons alledged, in Order to give a Sort of Colour and Plausibility to the unwarrantable Proceedings of those petty Tyrants in Office; whose Conduct on every Occasion has always pronounced them the Reproach of Society, and Pests to every civil Community."

" The Persons whom I have so just a Cause to complain of, and who have thus presumed to abuse the Power delegated to them, and maltreat your under Officers here, were your late Deputy Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, and the present Accomptant Mr. *Martin*; who also most iniquitously and improperly acts as Comptroller. The former by frequently issuing unnecessary and vexatious Orders, and by his violent Temper has rendered our Busines frequently embarrassing, sometimes nugatory, but at all Times uneasy;— the latter, to Sir *Thomas*'s Orders and Violence, subjoined his own abusive Controul; particularly in the Absence of the other, and when entrusted with a Power, which he always abused. Having never been a Practised Officer, and at best, had acquired only a speculative Knowledge of the Busines; and for Want of a requisite Harmony of Temper to conduct it in a peaceable and uniform Manner, he has often interrupted us in the regular Execution and Midst of our Duty, by an unnecessary Display of his Authority; so that by his Pride and Ill-nature, his Majesty's Busines has often been retarded, and was always remarked to be best dispatched in his Absence."

" This is Mr. *Martin*'s real Character in Office, which Sir *Thomas Prendergast* became early acquainted with by his Observation of the Busines when Mr. *Martin* attended, and when he did not; and it was

was also observable, that he ever after treated him accordingly."

" It must be acknowledged, that Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, after he came to the Knowledge of Mr. *Martin*'s Insignificance in the Employment, took much Pains to understand, as well as direct, and attend the Business and Office in Person, which rendered the other of little or no Consequence, and proved no small Satisfaction to the experiencd and active Officers here."

But it was, on the other Hand, as unfortunate to them in general, and to me in particular, that, as his Violence sometimes hurried him beyond the Bounds of Moderation, so by his repacious and monopolizing Temper, he interrupted the regular Succession or Rotation of Places in this Office. This Proceeding, being manifestly unjust, and contrary to the established Custom of the Office; (together with the abusive Controul practised by Mr. *Martin*) obliged me in the Years 1755, to forward a Complaint, to his Majesty's late Post-Masters General, the Earl of *Leicester* and Sir *Everard Fawkner*, Bart. to which I humbly beg Leave to refer, and notwithstanding its harsh, illiterate and imperfect Stile, is a true and faithful History or Narative of the illicit Proceedings and Practices in this Office to that Time."

" The Success of this Application answered in some Respect our most sanguine Expectations, as in Consequence of it, the Post-Masters-General sent over their Surveyor from *London*, who not only dismissed the Gentleman introduced and put over our Heads by Sir *Thomas*, and established every Officer in the Possession of his right Employment, but made several useful and necessary Regulations and Alterations — among the rest, advanced the Salaries of the younger Officers, and added 20l. a Year to mine, which was before but fifteen, after seven Years Service in Office.

" It

“ It will be easily perceived by your Honours, that this Step, tho' taken from a natural Principle of Justice, and Self-defence, and therefore in it self innocent, if not laudable, as the Event demonstrated, yet was the Cause of Sir *Thomas Prendergast* and Mr. *Martin*'s implacable Resentment against me,— and hard, very hard indeed, was it for me, without Interest, without Friends, and without Connexion, but by mere Dint of Fatigue and Diligence only, to persist in, and Discharge my severe Duty, and to support myself in the Office, against their united Efforts to distress and remove me, from that Time, 1755, to Saturday July 25th, 1761, when Mr. *Martin* was pleased to suspend me from an Employment that I had filled for many Years with the strictest Integrity and Honour, on every Occasion, which cannot be denied even by Mr. *Martin*, my surviving Enemy.

“ It is well known, that Sir *Thomas*, to gratify his natural capricious Temper, has suspended even our first Officers on the most trivial Occasions; and when there was no Business to do in the Office, he has suspended an Officer for only standing in the Hall playing with a Dog; another, for forgetting the Key of his own private Drawer in the Office, where he kept his old Pens, &c. — But whenever my Turn of Suspension came on, his Resentment then flamed out with double Inveteracy, and every minute or even imaginary Miscarriage, was magnified into a real Offence.”

“ When I have been thus suspended, Sir *Thomas* has sometimes ordered his Secretary to write, desiring me to make my Application to him (Sir *Thomas*) to be restored, and when, in Compliance with this Direction, I have wrote my genuine, undisguised Sentiments, they were sure never to please; and he has either altered and mutilated them to his own Liking, or his Secretary has done so by his Direction.— Sometimes he has condescended to dictate

dictate the Form, Verbatim, wherein his Pardon was to be implored, and whereby I was desired to acknowledge a Crime, that might (as I apprehend) on any future Occasion, be a seeming Excuse for his Conduct in suspending me. — These Letters, &c. are now in my Possession."

" It may be observed, that in all these artfully mean Proceedings, Sir *Thomas*, and Mr. *Martin*, had still a retrospective Eye of Vengeance against me; for having transmitted that Memorial, in 1755, remarking on their Conduct; every Opportunity was therefore embraced with most malignant Pleasure to aim a deadly Shaft at me."

" That Affair having made some Noise in *Dublin*, and being supposed to have been brought about by me, who am but an inconsiderable Person in it, it was judged expedient, by Sir *Thomas* and Mr. *Martin*, that some Sort of Palliative, or varnished Apology for their Conduct should be found out, that might, in Part, justify them to the Eyes of the World, I can't say in that of their own Consciences, or in the Opinion of the Officers here, who had certified the Truth of it from their own Knowledge."

" After some Time, this was effected by Means of Sir *Thomas*'s Interest and important Station, and Mr. *Martin*'s Connexion with the Post-Office in *London*; and accordingly Sir *Thomas* gave me the following Extract of a Letter he had received from his Majesty's Post-Master-General, dated 24th of *March*, 1757, *viz.*"

" *That he, Mr. Byron, do make Mr. Martin such Acknowledgments of the Sense he has of the Injury he might have done him, as may be sufficient to induce Mr. Martin to be reconciled to him, in such Manner as may enable them to live in Friendship together for the Time to come.*"

" In Obedience to this Order, and as I desired nothing more than to live in Friendship with him and

and all Men, I immediately waited on Mr. *Martin* to make my Acknowledgements, but that was not thought sufficient. — I then wrote a Letter to him acknowledging every Thing, and, (considering his Conduct) much more than he was intitled to expect, from the Order taken in its fullest Latitude. — But after Sir *Thomas* and he perused it, it was returned. — I then wrote another, which likewise did not please; — and Sir *Thomas* told me, that tho' the Words of the Order were, *may be sufficient*, yet my Apology must be made sufficient, in such Sense, and such Words, as should be acceptable to Mr. *Martin*; this he strenuously insisted on, tho' it was not implied in the Order or Direction from *London*, that I should give any written one whatever."

" As nothing I wrote was agreeable, I refused to write any thing further, unless they themselves would prescribe the Form I should write in; thereupon Mr. *Magran* (then Secretary) was privately instructed to inform me (which he did by a Writing under his Hand, now in my Possession) that *I should acknowledge my Complaint to be groundless and upon trivial and insufficient Motives.*

" As Sir *Thomas* and Mr. *Martin* by this ingenious Contrivance had left me no Alternative, I was obliged (if I would retain my Employ) to comply; tho' contrary to the Conviction of my own Reason, common Sense, and to the Truth which I had so fully represented in that Memorial of 1755, and to the Orders and Regulations afterwards made in consequence of it: but because both were included therein, I concluded neither would be satisfied, but by that servile extorted Acknowledgment.

" On such low, artful, and ungenerous, I had almost said ungentleman like, Proceedings, has this long projected Scheme for my Dismision been built; and it is obvious that the several Suspensions, and various other Hardships imposed on me, from time to

to Time were contrived and intended for no other Purpose than to ripen it, right or wrong, for execution.

“ This, however, Sir *Thomas* did not live to see, and so bequeathed the completion of the Scheme to Mr. *Martin*.

“ I had indeed, some faint Hopes, that after so remote a Time as 1755, his Resentment might reasonably have subsided, particularly as I had always taken Care to avoid giving Offence in any Part of my Conduct, and to Discharge my Duty in its utmost Extent, but this was the more disagreeable to him, and therefore I was the more mistaken.

“ And as I am persuaded and have the utmost Reason to believe, that private, implacable Resentment alone, was the only Motive for his virulent Proceeding against me, — I would willingly give your Honours the best Information in my Power as to the Occasion, yet (except my former Complaint or my having acquired more Knowledge of the Business in general then he chose I should possess) I cannot possibly recollect any other than the following trifling Circumstance, which perhaps in the Opinion of some might have been an Aggravation of my former Offence.

“ On the late Election in this City for two Members to serve in Parliament, and I being unfortunately what we term a Freeman, Mr. *Martin* was pleased to address me in the Post-Office in the following authoritative and dictatorial Manner, “ Mr. *Byron*, “ the Post-Master-General (or Mr. *Fortescue*) was “ Yesterday at the Tholsel and Voted for Sir *Charles Burton* and the Recorder; — I desire, Sir, that “ you may go there this Day, or by 12 o’Clock to “ Morrow and Vote for them also.” I replied; “ Sir, Mr. *Fortescue* is at liberty to Vote for “ whom he pleases, and I hope he or you will not “ exact or expect my Compliance in that Case,

“ but leave me at the same Liberty also ; I have
 “ the honour of being known to Sir *Charles Burton*
 “ and — here he interrupted me — Sir I have no-
 “ thing to say to that — remember, Sir, I tell you
 “ so, that’s all, that’s all.” and then stalked off
 with an Air of sullen Disappointed Dignity. — I
 had several Messages from him afterwards to the
 same Purpose, to which I returned the most modest
 Excuses I could devise, and to convince him that no
 Menaces could influence me, I was at length o-
 bliged to tell the Messenger, that let what will
 be the Consequence, and that if I was sent to New-
 gate for it, by G—d I would give one Vote to
 Doctor *Lucas*, which I accordingly did, and as I
 had the Honour of being acquainted with Sir *Charles Burton*, and always entertained the highest Respect
 for him and his Family, gave him the Other.”

Mr. *Martin*’s imperious and over-bearing Manner is very legible, without a Comment, in the foregoing ridiculous Scene.”

“ It was, indeed, the Opinion of most of the Officers here, that my Suspension might partly be occasioned by a Letter we wrote to the Post-master-General, then in the Country, and the Answer he was pleased to write, wherein he said, *he was pleased with, and approved of our Conduct, &c.* This Letter was thought to give Mr. *Martin* great Offence, tho’ it only contained a modest Hint of the abusive Controul, he usually exerted over us. — I take the Liberty of transcribing it, as follows.”

To the Right Hon. *William Henry Fortescue*, Esq.
 Post-Master-General. *Dublin, July 19, 1761,*

“ Honoured Sir,

“ We received, last Night, from Mr. *Ravill*,
 “ Copies of an Order signed by you, requiring us
 “ to attend the usual Office Hours.”

“ As we are apprehensive some Censure is im-
 “ plied, we are the more uneasy ; being conscious
 “ of

“ of doing our several Duties (during your Absence, and the Illness of the Accomptant) with the utmost Care and Diligence, and if not much better, at least as well as it ever was done at any other Time, both for his Majesty’s and the Publick Service. — We, therefore, hope no Misrepresentation has, or will, prejudice us in your Opinion ; and beg Leave to assure you, Sir, that while ever we are permitted to do our several Duties, *as become Men*, we will use our utmost Endeavours to merit your Approbation and Esteem.”

“ We are, Honoured Sir,

“ with great Respect,

“ your very dutiful and

“ most obedient, humble Servants,

Christopher Byron.

Richard Tucker.

Richard Boulger.

Coghill Haggerty.

Thomas Lee.

As we were the principal Persons that executed the Business, and that I was suspended in a few Days after ; at a Time too when the utmost Care and Diligence was observed by me, as well as all the Rest of the Officers, whose Care and Conduct then, left Mr. *Martin* no Way to gratify his Malignancy, but by taking, or procuring, Minutes of the Time we came to the Office Mornings or Evenings. I will, with your Honours Patience, lay before you the whole subsequent Proceedings, which began with the following Letter to Mr. *Martin*, wrote the same Day.”

To *Edward Martin, Esq.*

“ Sir Saturday, July 25, 1761.

“ I went to the Country on *Wednesday* Morning, immediately after Office Busines was over, and intended to have returned that Night, but was so fatigued (not being used to Riding) that I was

“ not able to return before the Pacquet came in
 “ next Morning. You were not up, at the Time
 “ I received the Letter that was the Occasion of
 “ my going, and I applied to Mr. *Jones* (in Case
 “ the Pacquet should come in, before I returned,
 “ which I did not expect) for Leave, and to ex-
 “ cuse me to you, which he promised.”

“ I am sorry I had not the Luck to write
 “ to you, as I find Mr. *Jones* neglected speak-
 “ ing, tho’ I told him my Necessity, therefore hope
 “ you’ll excuse for this Accident. Sir,

“ Your most humble Servant,”

“ CHRIST. BYRON.”

“ The real Cause of my going to the Country
 that Morning, which all the Officers knew, and I
 told M. *Martin*, was a Letter I had received ac-
 quainting me that my Father was dying, whom,
 tho’ a poor Man, I thought it my Duty on that
 Occasion to attend.”

“ I received a Letter, from Mr. *Ravill*, in An-
 swer to mine to Mr. *Martin*, informing me, that he
 could not restore me, ‘till he had acquainted the
 Post-master-General (then in the Country) of the
 Nature of my Suspension.”

“ After waiting some Time, ‘till I thought such
 an Answer might have been received, I ventured to
 write to Mr. *Martin* again, to know the Post-master-
 General’s Pleasure, and was informed by Letter,
 that he had confirmed my Suspension, and any Applica-
 tion I had to make for a Restoration, must be made to
 him.”

Sincerely believing, as I still do, that the Post-
 master-General would not have confirmed my Sus-
 pension, if he was truly informed of the Cause; and
 not knowing how Mr. *Martin* (or the young Lady
 who wrote for him) represented the Matter, or
 me, to him, I wrote the following Letter.”

To

To the Right Honourable *William Henry Fortescue*,
Esq. Post-Master-General.

“ Honoured Sir, August 2d, 1761.

“ Nothing but Necessity of a most urgent Na-
“ ture, together with the high Opinion I entertain
“ of your Candour, Justice and Gentility, could
“ possibly prompt me to trouble you with a Letter;
“ in which I shall endeavour to be as explicit and
“ concise, as the Nature and Circumstance of the
“ Matter (in my humble Opinion) will admit, and
“ hope, Sir, for your Indulgence and Excuse.”

“ I have ever been a regular, sober and diligent
“ Officer, and have gone through, executed, or
“ acted in, every particular Place and Station in
“ the different Offices; as well Accomptant's, as
“ Secretary's, Inspector of Franks, and great Of-
“ fice: In which I have discharged the several Du-
“ ties and Trusts reposed in me, and consequent
“ thereon, with a Fidelity and Exactness excelled
“ by None: This will not, nay cannot be denied.
“ However foreign or disagreeable this may be to
“ me to mention, at present, or self-sufficient it
“ may appear, where the Cause and Spring of the
“ Motives that force it are not known; I cannot
“ avoid acquainting you, Sir, that from my having
“ a more universal Knowledge, and Acquaintance
“ with the Business of the Office in general,
“ and the Experience and Pains I have taken in
“ the Execution thereof. — I have ever been con-
“ sidered a most useful, if not the most useful Of-
“ ficer, in the Post-Office; and have the Vanity to
“ think, as well as some Reason to believe, my
“ Character, Capacity, and Integrity as much to
“ be depended on, and as irreproachable, as any
“ Person's that ever was in the Degree of an Of-
“ ficer, and in my Station.

“ As my Duty required, so my Inclination led
“ me, to pay all necessary Attention to the Busi-
“ ness of my Employment, as far as mortal Power,
“ Health

“ Health or Fallibility would permit, notwithstanding which, and my most sanguine Intention to the contrary, I have often slept on Post-mornings, a Quarter or Half an Hour beyond my Time, and often came a Quarter or Half an Hour before it, and sometime (tho' very seldom these ten Years past, being married so long) have been absent from a Pacquet; which has been the Case of every Officer, — but whenever it so happened, that I came later than the precise Moment required, I was always willing, as well as able, to do, and did, make up by Diligence, what was lost by Accident.

“ On *Wednesday* Morning the 22d *ult.* I received a Letter from the Country, which put me under the unavoidable and immediate Necessity of going thither.

“ As I had no Occasion, or did not trouble Mr. *Martin* on any Business, or even thought it proper, since his Illness, and he also being in Bed, when the Business was over, I applied to Mr. *Jones* (then acting as Superior, or first Clerk) and told him my Necessity for going, and in Case the Pacquet should come in before I returned, (which I did not expect) requested he would excuse me, which he promised.

“ The Pacquet came in on *Thursday* Morning before I returned, but I attended and did my Duty, *Thursday* Night, and *Friday* Morning. *Saturday* Noon Mr. *Martin* sent for me, and on my waiting on him, told me he suspended me for being absent from the Pacquet the preceding *Thursday*, &c.

“ I endeavoured to satisfy him with the Reason and Cause of my being absent, but as I did not care to trouble him with much speaking, I came home and wrote him a Letter, explaining the whole Matter, and hoping for his Excuse. To which

“ which I received a Letter, in Answer, by his
“ Direction, from Mr. *Ravell*, telling me, that he,
“ Mr. *Martin*, could not restore me, 'till he had
“ acquainted you, Sir, with the Nature of my Suf-
“ pension.

“ By being absent from the Pacquet, under the
“ Circumstances before-mentioned, I really thought
“ I committed no Crime, but as I was not rebuked
“ or reprimanded before I was suspended, must
“ believe I have failed in some Point of Form or
“ Duty, which I assure you, Sir, was more owing
“ to Hurry and Inadvertence, than any Intention,
“ therefore humbly hope you will please to restore,

“ Honoured Sir,

“ your very dutiful, and
“ most obedient Servant,

“ CHRIST. BYRON.

“ The Reason why I said I did not care to trouble Mr. *Martin* with much speaking was, because his Disorder had affected his Tongue, and I thought he spoke in much Pain.”

“ As I received no Answer from the Post-master General to my Application, I wrote to Mr. *Martin* again, in these Words.”

To *Edward Martin*, Esq.

Sir,

Aug. 13th, 1761.

“ It is three Posts since I applied to the Post-
“ Master-General to be restored, agreeable to your
“ Instruction, received by Letter from Mr. *Ravell*;
“ since which I called on Mr. *Ravell*, to know if
“ there was any Order, in Consequence of my Ap-
“ plication, but heard of none.”

“ If you, Sir, have received any concerning me,
“ I will be much obliged to you to communicate
“ it to, Sir,

“ Your most obedient Servant,

CHRIST. BYRON.

“ I re-

" I received a Letter from Mr. *Ravell* in answer to the above, that the Post-Master-General had given no Order for my being restored."

" The Post-Master-General came to Town the 17th or 18th of *August*, and I waited on him the Day following with my Requests, that he would please to restore me to my Office; and not being conscious of any designed or wilful Neglect, or any Crime, that deserved Suspension, I was so partial to myself as to think it would be immediately granted: — But, to my great Surprize, he told me after a long Pause, *he would consider of it.* — I thought it, however, prudent to wait till he came down Stairs from Mr. *Martin*, and perceiving him going, asked him if I had occasion to wait any longer? and was answered, *No.*"

" My Surprize and distressing Apprehensions, were greatly encreased, at this unexpected Answer; not only as I thought it undeserved, but because I also then recollectec a Declaration he was pleased to make to all the Officers, who attended him sometime before, by Appointment, on Account of an Application made to your Honours, for a Claim of Succession to the Alphabet Employment, which Mr. *John Lee* apprehended he had a Right to; and that my Apprehensions were well-grounded, will appear from that Declaration, which was as follows.

" After informing us, *That your Honours had thought proper to confirm the Appointment of Mr. Palliser's Successor, and that you desired never to bear more from us, on that or any other Subject:* — He was also pleased to add, that, as he could not always be in the Way himself, to mind the Office, he must depend on Mr. *Martin* to see the Business performed, &c. and that if Mr. *Martin* should suspend any of us, he would not restore the Person so suspended, 'till Mr. *Martin* would make Intercession for him; — a Favour, indeed, we could not with any Probability expect

expect, let our Case be ever so justifiable. — Thus, left in the malevolent Power, and at the Mercy of Mr. *Martin*, without any Cause, we were reduced to the miserable Condition of Slaves, and he treated us accordingly as such."

" Full of Perplexity on my dubious Situation, and receiving no further Answer to determine me, I went to the Office next Morning, where the Post-Master-General was expected, and understanding he was to go to *England* that Day, I wrote a Memorandum which I sealed up, and left for him on his Desk."

" As I apprehend that Memorandum contains, only a proper Defence of my Conduct and Character, against the unjustifiable Designs of Mr. *Martin*, who still continued my most implacable Enemy ; and notwithstanding the Order from *London*, desired we should live in Amity for the Future, yet had been working in the Dark for many Years to compleat my Destruction ; and as it breaths something of a Dependance on your Honours against his evil Machinations, tho' not foreseeing, that I should have this Necessity of troubling your Honours, I take the Liberty of transcribing it here."

Mem.

Dublin, August 20th 1761.

" Mr. *Byron* presents his humble Duty and Respects to the Right Honourable the Post-Master-General, and requests it as an Act of Justice, that he will be pleased to direct an Enquiry to be made into the Cause of his Suspension, as Mr. *Byron* is apprehensive, and has good Reason to believe, he was suspended from his Employment more through private Resentment, than any Respect or Regard to the Necessity of Office, or the public Business thereof : — Being confident during the Accomptant's Illness, and Incapacity of attending, and at the Time he, Mr. *Byron*, was suspended, the closest Applica-

G

" tion

“*tion was observed by him, as well as all the Rest of the Senior-Officers; and the Business performed for the public Service, better than at any other Time whatever; a Fact as notorious as demonstrable; owing, in a great Measure, to Mr. Byron's particular Assiduousness.*”

“*Mr. Byron is very sorry he is under the Necessity of saying, he thinks himself extremely ill-used, as an Officer in the General-Post-Office, which he ever understood was his Majesty's Office, and in which he ever conducted himself as became a good and faithful Officer.”*

“*Mr. Byron requires, nor desires no Favour or Indulgence, but what he humbly apprehends he is intitled to, as a Servant (however inconsiderable) of his Majesty's Post-master-General, through that Justice, Humanity, and Equity which he has on a former Occasion experienced, and which he Hopes will ever govern the Post-Office.”*

“*Mr. Byron begs Leave to say, if the General-Post-Office was the the private Property, or House, and the Officers the menial Servants of the Accomptant's (as by his Conduct and Treatment of them in general of late it appears, or seems to wear the Complexion of,) Mr. Byron would disclaim, as well as disdain, any Application for Redress. But as he humbly apprehends (notwithstanding Appearances) that is not, nor cannot be the Case, Mr. Byron hopes, as he is open to Conviction, that no private or malicious Insinuation, or absolute or arbitrary Proceeding will be suffered to prejudice him in his Employment, or the Opinion of the Post-Master-General.”*

“*If he has committed any Crime in, or by Reason of his Employment, he is satisfied to suffer “ any*

“ any Punishment it deserves, — if not, — he humbly hopes to be exculpated.” §

“ Notwithstanding my repeated Applications, and the Reasonableness of the Request urged in this Memorandum, yet, unexamined, unsent for, and unheard, I received a Letter in the Evening of the same Day, in these Words.”

General-Post-Office, *Dublin*,

Sir, *August 21st, 1761.*

“ The Post-Master-General received *your* Letter directed to him in the Country, and *your* Memorandum in Town, which occasioned the looking into the Suspension-Book at this Office, wherein he observed, that instead of *your* being the Officer *you* mentioned; that *you* have been five Times suspended, and he has given Orders to acquaint *you*, that he has no further Occasion for *your* Service. I am Sir,

“ Your very humble Servant,

Jos. RAVELL.

To Mr. C. Byron, *Eustace-Street*.

“ As I never had the least Contest with, or in any Manner, to my Knowledge, disengaged the present Right Honourable Gentleman appointed to preside over us, but on the contrary, had the utmost Respect and Esteem for him; and even being informed he express great Concern, fearing the Business of the Office would not be conducted as it ought during Mr. Martin’s Illness; I waited on him at his House to relieve him from all Doubts and Apprehensions concerning that Matter; and assured him it would, and it certainly was better done then, than at any Time whatever: And as my Station, as well as my Service and Time of

G 2 standing

§ Whether this was making a Request, or acting like a Man and good Officer? let others determine: — And what Punishment, or whether any should be inflicted for suspending a Man from a public Employment, and acting on those Principles, is also left to the Decision of the Impartial.”

standing in Office, in my humble Opinion, intitled me to it, I did at least expect some Examination or Tryal, agreeable to my Request, before he proceeded to such Extremity: — This Mr. *Martin* for obvious Reasons, did not choose to venture upon, and, therefore, (as I suppose) prevailed on him not to grant."

" The Letter before-mentioned, that contained the Reason given for dismissing me, says, *That in looking over the Suspension-Book, it was observed, that instead of being the Officer I mentioned, I had been five Times suspended.*"

" In my own Justification, and for Brevity's Sake, tho' it is to me as disagreeable, as I am not insensible it is unseemly, to mention any Thing to my own Advantage, yet, on this Occasion, I hope your Honours will indulge me in a few Queries, which I humbly beg Leave to offer, and which I would be glad to have answered by my greatest, and to my Knowledge the only, Enemy I have in the World, Mr. *Martin*."

1st. How does it appear that I have not been the Officer mentioned in my Letter to the Post-Master-General, of the 2d of *August*, 1761, and the Memorandum left for him the 20th of the same Month?

2d. Have I not acted in, and done the Business in every Department set-forth in that Letter?

3d. Was there ever a more useful Officer in the General-Post-Office, in *Dublin*?

4th. Was there ever a more regular, sober, or diligent Officer employed? — or one of more Experience, Knowledge or Ability in the Business?

5th. Did not Sir *Thomas Prendergast* and Mr. *Martin*, both consider me as such, before I complained?

6th. *Was I ever, on any Occasion, suspended, till I complained of Sir Thomas Prendergast and Mr. Martin's Proceedings in Office?*

7th.

7th. Have I not in some Instances, that no Officer here ever attempted before me, advanced the Revenue very considerably ?

8th. Did it not appear to Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, that in the Case of counterfeit Franks, in eight Days Time, with my Assistance only, the gross Charge of that Article has been, for the Benefit of his Majesty, 54*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*

9th. Have I not always been a material Officer in the Inspection of counterfeit Franks, from the Commencement of that Employment in this Office and before ? And in the Absence of the Inspector, by Sickness or Leave, have I not, by Order, done the Business of Inspector, and constantly assisted in that Department (exclusive of my own) without the least Consideration or Reward ?

10th. Have I not been *particularly remarkable* in doing, and having the Business done as it ought, and with more Expedition, than ever it was done in my Absence ?

11th. Have I not discharged every Trust reposed in me, with Honour ? and is there the least room to object to, or suspect my Integrity, Capacity or Honesty ?

And Lastly. Was there any just Cause for my late Suspension ?

“ If these few Queries are fairly and truly answered, I indulge a Hope your Honours will believe, that nothing but Malice, joined with a total Disregard to his Majesty’s and the public Business; and to gratify a private, impertinent Resentment, could possibly have deprived your Officer of his long laboured for, and hard earned Bread.”

“ Let my Situation be ever so affecting, or Circumstance ever so distressing, I would not chuse to mention it, as an Argument to excite Compassion, or procure Equity : — But as I have been employed in, and concerned for, the Post-Office, ever since I was a Youth, and always preserved a fair Character,

it

it is too late for me now to look elsewhere for Bread; and as my Condition in Life will convince your Honours, that my sole Intention (as I feel for many besides myself) must have been to attend my Business, and discharge with Honour every Trust reposed in me; I cannot avoid acquainting your Honours, that I have a Wife, six Children, and a helpless Father (these sixteen Years past) depending on my Industry."

" These Considerations alone, prevailed on me to bear many Insults and Abuses from the Accountant in the Office, since the Death of Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, in whose Time, indeed, he did not dare to assume so much the Carriage and Appearance of a tyrannical Bashaw."

" As he evidently lost his Consequence with Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, who always required the Accounts to be kept forward, and not postponed, it was remarked he grew petulant, and absented himself from the Office, on Pretence of Sickness, in Opposition to his Superior's Desire; I call it *Pretence*, because at one particular Time that he so absented himself, he has been found drunk on the most public Bridge in this City, at three or four o'Clock in the Morning, and was taken up, and brought Home by Gentlemen passing by, notwithstanding his great Pretensions to Care, Regularity, the Business of the Office, and his requisite Duty."

" And since I have mentioned this, it will not be unnecessary for me, in my humble Opinion, to inform your Honours, that since the Death of Sir *Thomas Prendergast*, he has often came into the Post-Office, late at Night, drunk, and behaved very abusive and insulting to the Officers, gibeing and aggravating them in the Execution of their Business, and exulting in a most unbecoming Manner, saying, *I'll let you know who is Post-Master-General now!* and after kicking about and breaking the Vessels that held the three Quarts of Ale allowed each Post-Night

Night for the Refreshment of the Officers, he has been prevailed on to go to Bed, and not be shewing such bad Example to the younger Officers.— This Conduct and Kind of Behaviour, became so habitual to him, when he was indulged with a Power, that at a Feast at the Lord Mayor's of this City, he has forgot himself so far, as to insult the first Men (as was reported) of the Nation, for which he was ordered or turned out of the Room, and obliged by his Superior in Office, to go and beg Pardon of the Gentlemen offended; particularly the present Speaker of the House of Commons of this Kingdom."

" As I never made any particular Enquiry, so I never learned for certain, whether his Conduct in the Office he was employed in at the Custom-House, before he became Clerk to the Secretary in this Office, was quite irreproachable; neither has it been in my Power to discover, by what Means (except by the Inability or Inactivity of the old Officers) he has acquired so great an Influence, or stamp'd that Impression of Consequence on himself which he now assumes in this Office: Be that as it may, some are so uncharitable as to insinuate, that in the former Office his Conduct did not stand exempt from Censure, tho' they don't say why, or in what Manner, he left it; and that he has deserved it here, I know, and have felt, from sad Experience."

" Whether it is to be imputed to Accident, or Inclination, or from a mere Spirit of Opposition, to the Officers who understood their Business, (a Qualification he always discouraged) I cannot determine; unless he might have apprehended, it would have been a tacit Reproach on his own Inexperience, so frequently observable in his awkward and absurd Manner of directing the Business; — yet it is as unquestionably true, as it is universally known, that he has countenanced and protected

the

the most ignorant and infamous Persons that ever were introduced or employed in this Office, against all Reason, Demonstration and Conviction ; and, on the other Hand, oppressed the most sensible and deserving ; one of whom (Mr. *Samuel Dixon*) is now employed in Mr. *Calcraft's* Office, in *London*."

" One Instance of this Kind is not to be much wondered at (being of a Piece with all his Conduct towards me since the Death of Sir *Marmaduke Wyvill*) and an Attempt to ruin me in my Character and Employment, by Means of one Mr. *Quinn*, who, by Order, assisted in my then Department, and received Postage for foreign Letters, in my Absence ; which he never entered, or accounted for, contrary to his Oath, the Detriment of his Majesty's Revenue, and the great Prejudice of the Subject ; yet tho' it was on Complaint from the *London* Office, and Enquiry here, evident, that said *Quinn* was culpable, he was for some Time kept in his Employment, and every little Art and Subterfuge made use of for his Vindication, and every Hardship imposed and layed on me, and my Character (being at that Time Window-Man and Principal in that Department) blasted all over this City."

" In my own Defence, I never lost Sight of this Matter, and with the kind Assistance of Colonel *Dunn* (whose Letters were so managed as above, notwithstanding said *Quinn* made Oath of his Innocence, and all the Endeavours used for his Protection) I proved it beyond all Contradiction, and under his own Hand, that he, and he only, was guilty ; and tho' Sir *Thomas* and Mr. *Martin*, both said and confessed he deserved to be hanged for it, yet he was quietly and privately dismissed, and I ordered, before all the Officers, at my Peril, not to take any one Step to clear myself to the Public, or vindicate my Character on that Occasion, tho' I wrote to, and begged of Sir *Thomas* for Leave even to advertise

vertise it. Could any Inquisition be worse than this?"

" An other Instance I beg Leave to mention, is of a Porter now employed in the Office, countenanced and supported by Mr. *Martin*, who, tho' he has had positive Information of his being a Thief, by a very creditable Man, whom he stole the Goods from, and sundry other Complaints against him, and tho' by the constant Rule of this Office, no one Person is, or indeed ought to be employed in a Place of such Trust (as all Persons who have the handling of Letters must be in) without giving Security; yet he, who from his Character above all others requires it most, is employed to this Day, without giving any, and countenanced, protected, and indulged by Mr. *Martin* in a most extraordinary Manner, and more than all the Rest, or any Person that ever was in his Station."

" How Mr. *Martin* can dispense with, or reconcile this palpable Contradiction to the standing Rules of Office, and the more immediate Duty of his Station in it, as he now seems to have the whole and intire Conduct and Management thereof, and every Department and Apartment therein (which since the Death of Sir *Thomas Prendergast* he alters and converts at Pleasure for his own Purpose and Amusement) I will not pretend to determine."

" As it is, indeed, too much for any one Person to undertake, and do the Busines of four or five different Departments in Office with sufficient Precision, more especially one quite inactive; tho' I would be far from presuming to dictate, yet, from my own Judgment, I would humbly submit to my Superiors, whether an Officer thoroughly acquainted with the Busines, and appointed under the Name of *Comptroller*, *Auditor*, *Resident-Inspector*, *Chief-Clerk*, or any other Title or Name, whose Place should be to take Care of the Busines and Revenue of the Office, and see that no *improvident*, *imprudent*, or *illegal* Disposition was made thereof, would not be a very

H great

great Assistance to the Accomptant, in his present melancholy Condition, who lately lost the Use of his Right-Side by a Palsy, and is obliged to make use of a Stamp graved to sign his Name? — or whether a Person appointed, or made of some little Consequence and Authority as well as the Accomptant, and admitted to advise or represent Matters, and conduct the Business in his Absence (as the Officers are now all reduced by him to Cyphers) would not be of infinite Use, if instrumental in preventing the Disorder called here the *swelling of Incidents*, § and inconceivable Service in this unhappy public Office."

" Unacquainted and unknown to your Honours, and unassisted, and unqualified in every Respect, for such an Undertaking as this; but relying on the Truth and Sincerity of my Intention, and impelled to it by unheard of Cruelty and Oppression, as well as influenced by a Regard to Community, and his Majesty's Business; I have thus far presumed to trespass on your Honours Patience, in giving this Relation of Facts and my unparalleled Case, humbly hoping the Intention, and not the Manner may be considered, as it is not easy for a Person abused

§ The Accomptant and Comptroller of this Office, in his double Capacity, is the only Check on his own, as well as others Actions; and more particularly so, if his Superior here should be inactive; — as all Accounts for contingent or incident Charges on his Majesty, for the Use of this Office, are examined, signed, and, in a Manner, passed by him to himself; and altho', by Virtue of his Station, he may be allowed, or allow himself, some trifling Advantages unknown in common, such as Coals, Candles, &c. &c. for home Consumption, yet, it is evident, if he has the Inclination to indulge himself with any Thing further, for his own private Use, he has, or had, the Power so to do without Controul: — For which obvious Reason, Sir Thomas Prendergast, some Time before he dyed, had some Notion of dividing the Employment, as it is in London; and as it was the general Opinion that such Division would be necessary for the Benefit of his Majesty and the Good of Community; I then was, and now humbly offer myself a Candidate for one Part.

abused and under my Circumstance to write with Temper; — and if I have failed in any Part of Duty or Respect where due, I hope to be forgiven, as I declare solemnly it is occasioned solely by my Ignorance, for I do not mean to offend. — And now to the Hands of Providence, and your Honours, I submit the Determination, being with all humble Duty, Submission, and Respect,

May it please your Lordship and Honour,

Your most dutiful,
and most obedient,

General Post-Office,

Dublin, Sept. 14,

1761.

humble Servant,

CHRIST. BYRON.

When this Address was transmitted to *London*, Mr. *F*——e was there, therefore the Result of it was patiently waited for; but as nothing transpired in Consequence of this Application, nor no Kind of Answer received, notwithstanding the unrepresented and intolerable Cruelty of the Case, I took the Liberty of writing a private Letter the 12th of *October*, 1761, to the Earl of *B*——gh, humbly intreating, that his Lordship, by his Order, would signify his Pleasure and Determination thereupon.

The 28th *December* following, I had the Honour of a most polite and sensible Letter from his Lordship, which I am not at Liberty, in my humble Opinion to publish; and as every Application and Means in my Power for Redress, proved ineffectual: His Lordship's Letter produced the following Answer.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of *Bessborough* his Majesty's Post-Master-General.

My Lord,

“ The Pacquet which arrived on the 28th, honoured me with your Lordship's Letter of the 12th of *December* last; an Honour, which will evet be acknowledged with that Gratitude and Respect, which such Condescension and Humanity in so noble and

benevolent a Personage, makes the indispensable and perpetual Duty, of so inconsiderable a Person as I am."

" Having too much Deference and Respect, for your Lordship's eminent Abilities and Good-Sense, as not to believe the Power you have mentioned, properly placed; I should be wanting in the Duty I owe my Superiors, and at the same Time contradict my own Judgment, if I did not agree with your Lordship's Position: *that his Majesty's Business could not be carried on here as it ought, without that delegated Power you mentioned.*"

" In my humble Sphere, the Business of his Majesty, the *Ease, Honour, and Credit* of my Superiors, and the Service of the *Publick* (which thro' Ignorance and Neglect have been greatly bungled here of late) were always Objects of my particular Regard; for which Purpose I have ever exerted my utmost Endeavours, in a Manner the most likely, and effectual to answer the Duty and Place, in which it pleased Providence to place me."

" Convinced as I am of your Lordship's Readiness to redress the Injured, more especially those who may appear proper Objects; and also of the Honour, Good-nature and Humanity of Mr. *Fortescue*, whom I never, in Thought, or Deed, disengaged, and that I could not possibly have fallen under any Description to my Disadvantage, if common Justice was done me, which is all I ever looked for or required: — Yet notwithstanding those very favourable Circumstances, I am still apprehensive I must feel the Iron Hand of Power, without the Interposition of that Authority, which neither my feeble Interest or Ability, at present, are sufficient to procure."

" This Situation I am cruelly reduced to, for no other Cause but that of complaining of a Man, who taking Advantage of his Situation in, and the Condition and Circumstance of, Office; not only tyrannized

tyrannized over, but, contrary to Precedent and Rule, monopolized the Benefits, and plundered the Employments of his Compeers and other Officers in said Office; a Circumstance that was felt the more severely by me, as I ever was in Opposition to such Abuses; and altho' it is notorious there is now employed, two Persons in one Department (*to do the Accomptant's Business, which I for many Years did as well as ever it was done for 10l. per Ann.*) one at thirty-five and the other at forty Pounds a Year; and that after so long and painful an Attendance from my Youth, with the additional Burden, at present, of a helpless and numerous Family:— Yet I am still, by the iniquitous and remorseless Contrivance of said Person, deprived of my Employment, and every Benefit which I had a Right in common with others, from my Service, to expect:— And this too, without any just Cause or Consideration; and with the further Aggravation, of it being known and confessed, that none ever was more useful or deserving.”

“ As I never saw or heard from Mr. *Fortescue*, since I had the Honour of your Lordship's Letter, or heard any Thing of my Memorial or Case, which you ordered to be sent to him, (tho' Application has been made to him by Gentlemen of the first Consequence here) and being extremely loath to give your Lordship the Trouble of either reading or writing on my Account, I postponed 'till now, to acknowledge the Justice and Humanity of your Lordship, into whose Hands alone I commend my Case, which hitherto I have kept private in Hopes of being redressed; and waiting your Lordships favourable Resolves. I am with all Respect,

Your Lordship's Most dutiful,
obedient, and obliged
humble Servant,

Dublin, February 16, 1762.

C. BYRON.

As

As no Notice whatever was taken of this Letter, here ended all Application.

And now on a cool and dispassionate Review of the Whole, let the Impartial determine, whether the Officers in general, and I in particular, have not been most hardly and injuriously treated? tho' our Business scarce allowed Time for the necessary Refreshments of Nature, and ought for that Reason to have been made as pleasant in the Execution, as the Nature of it would allow: Yet have not the Thorns of Vexation and Oppression been strewn in our Way on every Occasion: And whether, if I had not been furnished with extraordinary Resolution (being the Object of their Resentment) could I ever have persisted so long, in the Discharge of my severe Duties, with that Punctuality and Integrity, which even my Enemies themselves, being Judges, must allow I have done.

Again! what shameful Rapacity have they not been guilty of towards the laborious and deserving Officers: — With what ridiculous misterious Policy have they brought their Resentment to Maturity, and discharged it with such deliberate Malignancy, on all who durst presume to complain or apply for Redress; on me in particular for that Reason?

How then will they stand acquitted in their own Consciences? or in the Judgment of the Honest and Impartial, for their base and inveterately malicious Treatment, of an honest humble Servant of his Majesty and the Public.

And if these Things are so, and can be so long carried on with Impunity, even under the best of Governments; now that they are discovered to the World, do they not loudly call for immediate Inspection and Redress from those Persons in Power, whose Duty it is to afford it?